

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Senator, war hero McCain dies at 81

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain, who faced down his captors in a Vietnam prisoner of war camp with jut-jawed defiance and later turned his rebellious streak into a 35-year political career that took him to Congress and the Republican presidential nomination, died Saturday after battling brain cancer for more than a year. He was 81.

McCain, with his irascible grin and fighter-pilot moxie, was a fearless and outspoken voice on policy and politics to the end, unswerving in his defense of democratic values and unflinching in his criticism of his fellow Republican, President Donald Trump. He was elected to the Senate from Arizona six times but twice was thwarted in seeking the presidency.

An upstart presidential bid in 2000 didn't last long. Eight years later, he fought back from the brink of defeat to win the GOP nomination, only to be overpowered by Democrat Barack Obama. McCain chose a little-known Alaska governor as his running mate in that race and turned Sarah Palin into a national political figure.

After losing to Obama in an electoral landslide, McCain returned to the Senate determined not to be defined by a failed presidential campaign in which his reputation as a maverick had faded. In the politics of the moment and in national political debate over the decades, McCain energetically advanced his ideas and punched back hard at critics — Trump not least among them.

The scion of a decorated military family, McCain embraced his role as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, pushing for aggressive U.S. military intervention overseas and eager to contribute to “defeating the forces of radical Islam that want to destroy America.”

Asked how he wanted to be remembered, McCain said simply: “That I made a major contribution to the defense of the nation.”

One dramatic vote he cast in the twilight of his career in 2017 will not soon be forgotten, either: As the decisive “no” on Senate GOP legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, McCain became the unlikely savior of Obama's trademark legislative achievement.

Most remarkably, he stuck by Trump as

John McCain: War hero, Senate icon, presidential candidate
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the party's 2016 presidential nominee even when Trump questioned his status as a war hero by saying: “I like people who weren't captured.” McCain declared the comment offensive to veterans but urged the men to “put it behind us and move forward.”

His breaking point with Trump was the release a month before the election of a lewd audio in which Trump said he could kiss and grab women. McCain withdrew his support and said he'd write in “some good conservative Republican who's qualified to be president.”

By the time McCain cast his vote against the GOP health bill, six months into Trump's presidency, the two men were openly at odds. Trump railed against McCain publicly over the vote, and McCain remarked that he no longer listened to what Trump had to say because “there's no point in it.”

By then, McCain had disclosed his brain cancer diagnosis and returned to Arizona to seek treatment. His vote to kill the GOP's yearslong Obamacare repeal drive — an issue McCain himself had campaigned on — came not long after the diagnosis, a surprising capstone to his legislative career.

In his final months, McCain did not go quietly, frequently jabbing at Trump and his policies from his Hidden Valley family retreat in Arizona. He opposed the president's nominee for CIA director because of her past role in overseeing torture, scolded Trump for alienating U.S. allies at an international summit, labeled the administration's zero-tolerance immigration policy “an affront to the decency of the American people” and denounced the Trump-Putin summit in Helsinki as a “tragic mistake” in which the president put on “one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory.”

On Aug. 13, Trump signed into law a \$716 billion defense policy bill named in honor of the senator. Trump signed the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act in a ceremony at a military base in New York — without one mention of McCain.

John Sidney McCain III was born in 1936 in the Panama Canal zone, where his

father was stationed in the military.

He followed his father and grandfather, the Navy's first father-and-son set of four-star admirals, to the Naval Academy, where he enrolled in what he described as a “four-year course of insubordination and rebellion.” His family yawned at the performance. A predilection for what McCain described as “quick tempers, adventurous spirits and love for the country's uniform” was encoded in his family DNA.

During his final years in the Senate, McCain was perhaps the loudest advocate for U.S. military involvement overseas — in Iraq, Syria, Libya and more. That often made him a critic of first Obama and then Trump, and placed him further out of step with the growing isolationism within the GOP.

In October 2017, McCain unleashed some of his most blistering criticism of Trump's “America first” foreign policy approach — without mentioning the president by name — in describing a “half-baked, spurious nationalism cooked up by people who would rather find scapegoats than solve problems.”

Few politicians matched McCain's success as an author. His 1999 release “Faith Of My Fathers” was a million-seller that was highly praised and helped launch his run for president in 2000. His most recent bestseller and planned farewell, “The Restless Wave,” came out in May 2018.

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said McCain will lie in state at the Arizona Capitol on Wednesday, which is his birthday.

In a tweet, Ducey described the event as a “rare and distinct occurrence for a truly special man.”

Congressional leaders said McCain will lie in state in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, but did not give a date for the event.

Former President George W. Bush, who defeated McCain for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination, called McCain a “man of deep conviction and a patriot of the highest order” and a “friend whom I'll deeply miss.”

Bush and Obama are among those expected to speak at McCain's funeral.

McCain will be buried at the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery on a peninsula overlooking the Severn River in Annapolis, Md.

Reborn 2nd Fleet monitors Atlantic Ocean

BY SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. 2nd Fleet was reborn during a ceremony aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush on Friday as part of a move to monitor increased Russian activity in the north Atlantic Ocean.

Vice Adm. Andrew “Woody” Lewis took command of 2nd Fleet, which will be a scaled-down version of the original fleet that was decommissioned in 2011 and absorbed into Fleet Forces Command to cut costs.

Navy officials announced plans in May to revive the fleet and create a joint force command in Norfolk, Va., to respond to Russia’s increasing movements in the Atlantic Ocean.

Restoring 2nd Fleet is part of the new national defense strategy that puts more focus on near-peer adversaries and less on terrorism.

“Our sea control, our power projection — two vital elements of our national security — are being challenged by resurgent powers, namely Russia and China,” Adm. Christopher Grady, Fleet Forces commander, said at the ceremony. “We as a Navy — as a nation — have not had to confront such peer competitors since the Cold War ended nearly three decades ago.”

The fleet will operate on the East Coast and as far north as Greenland.

The 2nd Fleet will exercise operational and administrative authority over ships, aircraft and landing forces on the East Coast and in the northern Atlantic. Some

details have yet to be worked out, such as how far east the fleet’s ships will patrol and how much of the ocean will remain in 6th Fleet’s area of operations. How many personnel and ships the fleet will have also remains unclear.

By the time 2nd Fleet was deactivated, it was mostly aiding humanitarian efforts and assisting with counternarcotics missions with 4th Fleet.

Then Russia became more active in the north Atlantic, especially with submarines, creating greater competition that required a response, Adm. James Foggo, commander of Naval Forces Europe and Africa, told Stars and Stripes earlier this year.

Lewis, who will head the fleet, has held leadership posts while deployed and at the Pentagon.

DPAA celebrates milestone as sailor laid to rest

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency recently celebrated a significant milestone as the 100th USS Oklahoma sailor was laid to rest after the agency identified and returned the remains to the family for burial.

Petty Officer 1st Class Arthur Glenn of Fort Wayne, Ind., was laid to rest Tuesday at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific — also known as the Punchbowl — in Hawaii, a DPAA statement said.

His burial came nearly 77 years after the surprise Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor that claimed 2,403 American military

and civilian lives, including 429 crewmembers from the Oklahoma, according to the Navy.

The battleship was struck by multiple torpedoes and quickly capsized, leaving 388 of its personnel unidentified, the DPAA statement said.

In 2015, 60 caskets containing unknown commingled remains were disinterred. As of this week, 158 servicemembers from that group have been identified.

“A promise was made by our Nation that we would provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing heroes and return them to their families,” DPAA director Kelly McKeague said in the statement. “Our agency remains steadfast in complet-

ing that task and we are extremely humbled to provide answers and some solace to the Glenn family.”

Glenn was born Dec. 7, 1889, to a Scottish father and an Irish mother, the 10th of 11 siblings, according to The Cumberland Times News of Maryland. He enlisted on April 12, 1917, as an apprentice seaman, and served for the duration of World War I. He remained in the Navy and served for 24 years in both the Atlantic and Asiatic fleets.

His remains were repatriated to his great niece and nephew, Danielle Myers and Matt Glenn, after he was identified Nov. 17, 2017, using family reference samples, DPAA and the newspaper said.

Female Marine recruits get new high-collar blues coats

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

One week after the Marine Corps celebrated a century of women in its ranks, some of its newest female recruits will be issued blue dress coats designed to look more like those of their male counterparts.

Last Tuesday, members of Platoon 4040, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, donned jackets with the mandarin collar, which has long been a distinctive part of the male dress blues uniform, according to Marine Corps photos posted on the Defense Department’s online photo and video site DVIDS.

Papa Company was the first to receive the new coats, according to the photo captions. The company is expected to graduate from the Corps’ 13-week boot camp on Parris Island, S.C., on Oct. 12.

Unlike the male uniforms, the new coats do not have breast or lower pockets. They will replace a version of the coat that featured an open collar and lapels.

The Corps announced its plans to adopt the modified coats in 2016, coinciding with a Pentagon push for gender-neutral physical standards and job opportunities. That included the opening of combat job fields to women across the services. Ray Mabus, then-secretary of the Navy, called for uni-

forms that “don’t divide us as male or female but rather unite us as sailors or Marines.”

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert B. Neller approved the modified blues coat in January 2016. The service had been developing and testing the new style coat since at least 2013, and it had been issuing them to female Marines in and around Washington for field testing.

The Corps had long opposed opening combat roles to women, but it recently appointed its first female infantry platoon commander — so far, one of only two female Marines to pass the Marine Corps’ 13-week Infantry Officer Course at Quantico, Va., out of more than three dozen who have attended.

Judge overturns president's union orders

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Unions representing federal workers on Saturday declared victory in what they have described as an assault by the Trump administration after a federal judge struck down key provisions of a set of executive orders aimed at making it easier to fire employees and weaken their representation.

The ruling, by U.S. District Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson in Washington, was a setback to the White House's efforts to rein in federal unions, which have retained significant power over working conditions even as private-sector unions are in decline.

"It's a big win for us," said David Borer, general counsel

for the American Federation of Government Employees. With 750,000 members, the AFGE was the largest of about a dozen unions to sue the administration to block the new rules affecting 2.1 million civil servants.

The AFGE and the other plaintiffs plan to demand that the administration immediately reverse the new rules, which were issued just before Memorial Day and had begun to take effect in several agencies.

In a 122-page decision, Jackson — nominated to the bench by President Barack Obama in 2013 — took issue with key elements of each order and immediately barred the administration from enacting them.

"They're going to have to unwind what they've already done," Borer said.

The White House on Saturday referred questions to the Justice Department, which said in a statement it is reviewing the decision and considering its next steps.

The three executive orders had sought to broaden President Donald Trump's get-tough approach to a federal bureaucracy he has called unaccountable and wasteful.

The rules restricted the use of "official time" — on-duty time that union officials can spend representing their members in grievances and on other issues. The new rules limited the issues that could be bargained over in union negotiations. And they rolled back the rights of workers deemed to be poor performers to appeal disciplinary action against them.

When the White House announced the new rules, Andrew Bremberg, head of the president's Domestic Policy Council, said the unions are major contributors to driving up costs and have paralyzed agencies' efforts to discipline poor performers and make government more accountable to taxpayers.

"These executive orders make it easier for agencies to remove poor-performing employees and ensure that taxpayer dollars are more efficiently used," Bremberg said at the time. The president, he noted, called on Congress during his State of the Union address "to empower every Cabinet secretary with the authority to reward good workers and to remove those that undermine the public trust or fail the American people."

Democrats vote to neutralize 'superdelegates'

The Washington Post

CHICAGO — The Democratic National Committee voted Saturday to neutralize the votes of unpledged convention delegates, part of a package of hard-fought reforms designed to prevent a repeat of the bitter 2016 presidential primary as the party looks toward the 2020 election.

"We listened and we acted, and I'm proud that our party is doing everything we can to bring people in and make it easier to vote," said DNC Chairman Tom Perez after the reforms were unanimously approved.

The new party rules undo decades-old reforms that empowered hundreds of party activists and elected officials, often referred to as "superdelegates," whose presidential convention votes were not bound to the results of primaries or caucuses. They also affirm the decision of six states to move from caucuses, which have favored insurgent candidates, to primaries, which tend to have higher turnout.

Leaker of classified information gets 5 years

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — A former government contractor sentenced to more than five years in prison for mailing a classified U.S. report to a news organization has received what prosecutors are calling the longest sentence ever imposed for a federal crime involving leaks to the media.

Reality Winner, 26, pleaded guilty in June to a single count of transmitting national security information. The sentence handed down Thursday by U.S. District Court Judge J. Randal Hall was in line with a plea agreement between Winner's defense team and prosecutors, who recommended she serve five years and three months behind bars.

The former Air Force translator had worked as a contractor at a National Security Agency office in Augusta, Ga., when she printed a classified report and left the building with it tucked into her pantyhose. Winner told the FBI she mailed the document to an online news outlet.

Wearing an orange jail uniform and shackles in court,

Winner said Thursday that she took responsibility for her actions. She said she had made "an undeniable mistake."

"I would like to apologize profusely for my actions," she told the judge. "My actions were a cruel betrayal of my nation's trust in me."

Authorities never identified the news organization. But the Justice Department announced Winner's June 2017 arrest the same day The Intercept reported on a secret NSA document.

It detailed Russian government efforts to penetrate a Florida-based supplier of voting software and the accounts of election officials ahead of the 2016 presidential election. The NSA report was dated May 5, as was the document Winner had leaked.

U.S. intelligence agencies later confirmed Russian meddling.

U.S. Attorney Bobby Christine told reporters Winner's punishment is the longest sentence ever given for a federal crime involving a leak of secret information to the news media. Winner will get credit for hav-

ing spent more than a year in jail already, he said.

Christine said Winner's leak harmed national security by revealing "sources and methods" that impaired U.S. efforts to gather similar information.

"She was the quintessential example of an insider threat," said Christine, the top federal prosecutor for the Southern District of Georgia.

Among other leak cases cited by prosecutors in court documents, the stiffest prior sentence was three years and seven months in prison given to former FBI explosives expert Donald Sachtleben. Secret information he leaked included intelligence he gave to The Associated Press for a story about a U.S. operation in Yemen in 2012.

One famous leaker received a harsher sentence from a military court-martial for giving classified materials to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks. Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning was sentenced to 35 years in a military lockup, but served only seven years until then-President Barack Obama granted her clemency.

Pope meets with abuse victims in Ireland

Associated Press

KNOCK, Ireland — Pope Francis visited a famous shrine Sunday in Ireland and was to celebrate a Mass dedicated to families after an emotional meeting with Irish victims of clerical sex abuse and those wrenched away from their mothers in forced adoptions demanded by Catholic authorities.

Francis arrived Sunday in Knock, the Marian shrine in northwestern Ireland, where he prayed and blessed thousands of jubilant Irish faithful, who gathered in raincoats under clouds.

On Saturday, the first day of his visit, Francis spent 90 minutes meeting with victims of clerical and institutional abuse, including two people who were forcibly given up for adoption as newborns because their mothers weren't married. They are some of the thousands of Irish children taken from their mothers who were then forced to go live and work in laundries and other workhouses for "fallen women."

One of them, Clodagh Malone, said Francis was "shocked" at what they told him and "he listened to each and every one of us with respect and compassion."

The survivors asked Francis to speak out Sunday to let all the mothers know that they did nothing wrong and that it wasn't a sin — as church officials have told them — to try to find their children later in life.

They said the Argentine pope understood well their plight, given Argentina's own history of forced adoptions of children born to purported leftists during its 1970s military dictatorship.

"That is a big step forward for a lot of elderly women, particularly in the countryside in Ireland who have lived 30, 40, 50, 60 years in fear," another adoptee, Paul Redmond, told The Associated Press. "That would mean a lot to them."

Francis' first day in Ireland was dominated by the abuse scandal and Ireland's fraught history of atrocities committed in the name of preserving and purifying the

Catholic faith. He received a lukewarm reception on the streets, but tens of thousands of people thronged Dublin's Croke Park Stadium for a family rally featuring Ireland's famous Riverdance performers and tenor Andrea Bocelli.

Francis' visit had originally been intended to celebrate Catholic families at the close of the Vatican's once-every-three-years World Meeting of Families.

But it has been overshadowed by the abuse scandal, which has devastated the church's reputation in Ireland since the 1990s and has exploded anew in the U.S. following accusations of misconduct and cover-up by members of the U.S. hierarchy.

The U.S. scandal took on a new twist Sunday, with a former Vatican ambassador to the U.S. purportedly penning a letter accusing Vatican officials of knowing about the sexual escapades of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick since 2000 but making him a cardinal anyway.

Subdued Zimbabwe inaugurates Mnangagwa again

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwe on Sunday inaugurated a president for the second time in nine months as a country recently jubilant over the fall of longtime leader Robert Mugabe is now largely subdued by renewed harassment of the opposition and a bitterly disputed election.

Military-backed President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who again took the oath of office, faces the mammoth task of rebuilding a worsening economy and uniting a nation deeply divided by a vote that many hoped would deliver change.

Mnangagwa, 75, who took power from his mentor, Mugabe, with the military's help in November, said "my door is open and my

arms are outstretched" to main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa after the Constitutional Court on Friday rejected opposition claims of vote-rigging and upheld the president's narrow July 30 victory.

"It is time to move forward together," said Mnangagwa, who has promised democratic and economic reforms after Mugabe's repressive 37-year rule.

Chamisa on Saturday said he respectfully rejects the court ruling and called the inauguration "false."

"They know they can't invite me to a wedding where I was the one supposed to be receiving the gifts," he said. His spokesman, Nkululeko Sibanda, on Sunday said "we haven't received any formal

invitation."

Chamisa, 40, has called for dialogue with Mnangagwa but suggested that talks on power sharing first must acknowledge the opposition leader's alleged victory. "You cannot steal my goats and then ask me to come and share them with you," he said.

Ruling party spokesman Paul Mangwana criticized Chamisa for saying he will snub the inauguration.

"It is important for nation-building at this critical time. The problem is the [Movement for Democratic Change party] did not give us a good opposition leader, they gave us a schoolboy, so he is playing schoolboy politics," Mangwana told The Associated Press.

7 arrested at rally over Confederate statue's removal

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Seven people were arrested Saturday at a rally calling for a century-old Confederate statue at the University of North Carolina to be returned after it was yanked down five days ago.

About a dozen people carrying Confederate flags were met by dozens of protesters that don't want the memorial, known as "Silent Sam," to return to the campus in Chapel Hill.

Television footage and videos posted to social media showed several punches thrown and at least one man handcuffed after he tried to burn a Confederate flag taken from another man's hands.

None of the seven people arrested was affiliated with the school, Chancellor Carol Folt said.

Three were charged with assault; two were charged with assault, destruction of property and inciting a riot; one was charged with destruction of property; and

one was charged with resisting an officer, the university said in a statement. Officials did not release their names or say if they were protesting for or against the statue.

"Silent Sam," erected in 1913, was torn down Aug. 20 during a protest. It's now in temporary storage. Folt said there have been at least 35 demonstrations about the statue in the past several years, and while she would prefer a safer, more secure location than a main campus quad, the university hasn't decided what to do with it.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

For sale: Depot that saw action in Civil War

GA DALTON — A train depot built before the Civil War in northwest Georgia is on the market for a suggested price of \$500,000.

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation said the Dalton Depot is the oldest commercial building in the city of Dalton. It was built in 1852 and saw action during the Civil War when a telegraph operator used the depot to send a warning that a train stolen by Union raiders planning a surprise attack was heading toward Chattanooga, Tenn.

Bids are being accepted through Sept. 14.

Tiny jellyfish proving a stinging pest at beach

MD OCEAN CITY BEACH — Visitors to Maryland's Eastern Shore are taking home a nasty, stinging reminder from their day at the beach.

News outlets reported that a type of small jellyfish nicknamed sea lice are hanging out in the surf around Ocean City's beach.

The stinging sea creatures can cause some people to feel a prickling sensation while they're in the water. The result can leave a rash with red, itchy or burning bumps within a few hours after exposure.

Sea lice have been a problem in Florida this summer, with other reports from North Carolina and Alabama.

Sheriff: Man, others faked divorce papers

LA SHREVEPORT — A 27-year-old Louisiana man is accused of filing false divorce papers, and his girlfriend's daughter is accused

of forging the man's wife's signature.

Caddo Parish Sheriff Steve Prator says the wife found legal documents showing she'd been granted a divorce she had never requested.

A news release said Demario Clark of Shreveport was arrested on a charge of filing false public records, and Lisa McKinney, 50, and her daughter Stanneisha McKinney, 26, were arrested on forgery charges.

Python found under the hood of vehicle

WI OMRO — A Wisconsin motorist was having car trouble when he pulled over to find a slithering surprise.

Chris Nguyen opened the hood of his mother's SUV. Inside, he found a 4-foot-long ball python.

Police in Omro responded. They tried to wriggle the snake free and called Menasha snake rescuer Steve Keller for help.

WLUK-TV reported it took hours to free the snake.

The snake's owner said it had been missing for more than a month. It's illegal to have such a snake in Omro, and the owner was fined \$313.

Police said they'll dismiss the ticket if the owner pays for the SUV's damages, which fittingly include a displaced serpentine belt.

Bear wanders hotel that inspired 'The Shining'

CO ESTES PARK — A black bear wandered the lobby of the Colorado hotel that inspired Stephen King to write "The Shining."

Stanley Hotel vice president Reed Rowley told KDVR-TV 300 guests were sound asleep as the bruin figured out how to open the door and climbed over furniture. A front desk supervisor captured video of the romp.

There was no damage, but the furniture got rearranged before the bear walked out of the lower level door.

King wrote "The Shining" after he and his wife stayed at The Stanley in 1974.

Condo buys DNA kits to solve dog poop issues

MD ANNAPOLIS — Fed up with dog poop being left around, board members at a Maryland condominium complex are now relying on DNA samples to police unscooped feces.

Jeanne Fisher, the general manager for The Residence at Park Place Condominium, told The Capital newspaper that she came across "doggie DNA" as an option when residents began complaining about unscooped poop.

The condo association spent about \$2,500 on pet DNA kits. Fisher said if a sample is matched, a fine will be levied along with about \$90 in costs if the association decides to send a specimen to a lab for testing.

Tweet over packaging gets attention, change

NH CONCORD — A supermarket customer's tweet on stickers placed over the opening of bagged deli meats got the attention of New Hampshire's governor, and a change.

NH1 reported Londonderry, N.H., Town Manager Kevin Smith recently took to Twitter to ask that the company, Market Basket, not put the price tag stickers over the zipper of the meat bag. He said it's impossible to open it without destroying the bag.

Gov. Chris Sununu responded, saying he has to re-bag cheese because of the problem.

On Tuesday, both Smith and

Sununu tweeted that the stickers were moved to the bag itself.

Robbed on wedding day, couple treated to show

MI PONTIAC — A wrestling company treated a Michigan couple to a professional wrestling event after they were robbed on their wedding day.

MLive reported that Kip and Kyren Orfield planned to attend a show by U.K.-based Progress Wrestling after their wedding ceremony in Pontiac on Aug. 12.

But the couple discovered that same day that someone had stolen \$1,600 from them, as well as their tickets to the wrestling event.

Friends and family reached out to the company to see if any other tickets were available. Event officials invited the couple to the show in Livonia, where they were able to meet several professional wrestlers.

Woman blames crash on 'Pokemon Go'

KS WICHITA — A Kansas woman alleges in a lawsuit that she was struck and injured by a driver playing "Pokemon Go" not long after the game's release.

The Wichita Eagle reported that Angelique Farris is seeking more than \$75,000 in damages from David Cardona. The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office detention deputy contends in the lawsuit that Cardona was "hunting Pokemon" in August 2016 when he turned into her vehicle.

Cardona was cited for failing to yield right of way to another driver as he made a left turn and paid a \$122.50 ticket.

From wire reports

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Hard work lifts BC's Allen

D-line is where stars are in '18

Associated Press

BOSTON— Imagine what passers-by must have thought about Zach Allen's father on those bitter cold Connecticut days when they saw him pitching batting practice to his pre-teen son at the park.

Must be one of those crazed Little League dads, sucking all the fun out of the game.

"What they didn't realize was I was begging Zachary, 'You know, can't we go in? It's freezing out here,'" Michael Allen said.

With some prodding by a persistent and prescient high school coach, Zach Allen put down the bat and glove and decided to concentrate on football. Now, Allen's regimented focus and first-to-arrive-last-to-leave work ethic has made him into one of the best defensive linemen in college football as he heads into his senior season at Boston College.

That's a real feat this year.

The NFL Draft next year will be filled with blue chip defensive linemen. Allen doesn't have the name recognition or magazine covers, but NFL scouts know all about him. He was one of only two defensive linemen credited with at least 100 tackles last season and might have slipped into the first round of the last draft had he decided to leave early. Instead he chose to return to anchor the defense for what could be the best BC team since Matt Ryan was quarterback there 12 years ago.

"You want to be part of that so you can come back 10, 15, 30 years with your family and say, 'Yeah, we were able to come together and we were able to do this,'" Zach Allen said.

Allen excelled in baseball, basketball and football growing up. During his freshman year at New Cannan High School in Connecticut, Allen came to the conclusion he needed to drop one sport if he wanted to continue playing at a high level and getting straight A's. Since he dreamed of being the next Alex Rodriguez or Derek Jeter, he chose to quit football right before the start of spring practice.

New Cannan coach Lou Marinelli did not like Allen's idea.

"I said, 'Give me your father's phone number,'" said Marinelli, who is going into his 38th season coaching at the school.

Marinelli left a voicemail for Michael Allen, who remembers it well.

"Mr. Allen, I have your son standing in my office. Could you give me a call? I just heard the stupidest something-something thing in 40 years of coaching," Allen said, cleaning up Marinelli's language.

Marinelli moved Zach Allen to varsity, played him at outside linebacker and the Allens have been thanking him ever since.

Connecticut does not produce many highly recruited football players. Allen and

his family had modest expectations.

"We thought he'd go maybe to an Ivy school and play football," said Irene Allen, Zach's mother.

Everything changed on Dec. 3, 2013, Allen's junior year, when he got his first FBS scholarship offer from Pittsburgh.

"I was blown away," Michael Allen said.

According to 247 Sports' recruiting rankings, Allen was a three-star prospect, the fourth-best player in Connecticut in 2015. No. 1 was Clemson's Christian Wilkins, a five-star recruit who played at Suffield Academy, a private prep school.

Wilkins, like Allen — though more surprisingly — chose to return for his senior season, adding yet another potential first-round pick at a position that is one of the most valued by NFL teams. And, after quarterback, maybe the most challenging to fill.

Unlike most of those players, who have been on the path to the draft since high school, Allen's progress has been gradual. He played some as a 250-pound freshman and was part of the rotation as a sophomore. Last year, he rarely left the field. He had six sacks, 15½ tackles for loss and was one of the Atlantic Coast Conference's breakout stars. The NFL began noticing and after the season Allen had a decision to make. He received a second-round grade from the NFL's college advisory committee and got some first-round feedback.

Allen was invited to the NCAA's Elite Athlete Symposium, held in conjunction with the NFL combine in Indianapolis.

A turning point in his development was the arrival of Paul Pasqualoni to Boston College as defensive line coach after Allen's freshman season. Pasqualoni is a former head coach at Syracuse and Connecticut and spent time in the NFL, too, including a season coaching All-Pro J.J. Watt as defensive line coach in Houston.

"He had stories about guys and how they let it consume their world and how they were all about football," Allen said.

Allen spends hours in the training room every day: stretching, treatment, cold tub. Even after games, when it's time to celebrate or commiserate, the routine takes precedence.

"We're always sitting there in the dark at Alumni Stadium, waiting for him to come out," Irene Allen said.

Zach Allen sleeps nine to 10 hours a night. Most days his dinner is chicken — cooked on his roommates' George Foreman Grill — brown rice and vegetables.

This might sound like a dull existence, but make no mistake: Allen is having a blast grinding through each day.

"I always joke my biggest fear is working a desk job," he said, "because I love what I do right now."

Associated Press

If you are looking for the best players in college football this season, pay attention to the defensive line.

A group of former blue chip prospects has bloomed into dominant defenders who will be wrecking offenses across the nation in 2018. Then in 2019, they will likely be packing the first round of the NFL draft.

Here are the best of the big fellas who could be draft eligible in 2019:

Ed Oliver, DT, Houston

The junior has already announced he will enter next year's draft. No need to wait. Oliver was practically NFL ready when he arrived at Houston, choosing his hometown university over the Power Five programs. He has 38½ tackles for loss in two seasons. At 6-foot-3 and 290, Oliver combines power, quickness and rare sideline-to-sideline speed for an interior lineman.

Rashan Gary, DE, Michigan

Gary was the No. 1 overall recruit coming out of high school in 2016. He broke out as a sophomore last season, with 5½ sacks and sturdy play against the run. The Wolverines could probably use a few more sacks out of the 6-5, 281-pound junior.

Nick Bosa, DE, Ohio State

As a sophomore last season, Bosa shared playing time with three defensive ends who were drafted last season, which makes the 8½ sacks and 16 tackles for loss even more impressive.

Clemson's defensive line

Yep, all of them. Defensive tackle Christian Wilkins and defensive ends Clelin Ferrell and Austin Bryant all could have left school after last season and been NFL picks. Instead, they all returned for another season. None more surprising than Wilkins, a 300-pound junior who has played extensively since his freshman year. The best of the bunch might be the youngest. Dexter Lawrence, the 340-pound junior, played through nagging injuries last year.

Iron Bowl rivals

At 6-7, 306, there is no more imposing player than Alabama's Raekwon Davis, who had 10 tackles for loss last season and seems primed to be just the next in a long line of dominant defenders for Nick Saban. Not to be outdone by its Iron Bowl rival, Auburn has a star in Derrick Brown, a 325-pound rock in the middle of what could be the SEC's best defensive line.

Briefly

Allgaier sails to win at Road America

Associated Press

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. — Race leader Justin Allgaier watched in the mirror as the two cars closest to his Chevrolet made contact, essentially bumping his two closest rivals out of contention.

The coast was clear for Allgaier to sail to victory Saturday at Road America for his fourth win of the season.

But Allgaier kept thinking about everything else that could go wrong.

What if he didn't hit his mark on a turn? What if his car ran over a debris on the track? What if he just ran out of fuel?

"Ok if I run out of gas I may not go back to the garage area," Allgaier said in recounting his internal conversation. "I may just walk back home to Charlotte."

Instead, he'll head back with his second victory in three weeks, both coming on road courses, after pulling away over the final five laps.

Allgaier held a 5.4-second advantage over second-place Matt Tifft to take the tense race filled with bumps, scrapes and spin-outs around the 14-turn course. Daniel Hemric, Tifft's teammate at Richard Childress Racing, was third.

The victory erases the sting of a close call in 2011, when Allgaier led late in the race before running out of fuel during a yellow flag.

Indy driver Wickens breathing on his own

MADISON, Ill. — IndyCar driver Robert Wickens was breathing without medical assistance and began speaking with his family Saturday for the first time since his harrowing wreck at Pocono Raceway.

Schmidt Peterson Motorsports made the announcement shortly before the start of the IndyCar race at Gateway Motorsports Park. The team is only fielding James Hinchcliff's car in Saturday night's

race, though the No. 6 that Wickens would have driven this week was parked outside the haulers.

Serena OK with French Open despite outfit ban

NEW YORK — Serena Williams says her relationship with the French Open is fine despite the Grand Slam tournament's ban on her skin-tight black catsuit.

Williams says she has spoken with the French Tennis Federation president, who said in Tennis Magazine the outfit would no longer be accepted.

Williams said Saturday she no longer needs to wear it because she found that compression tights also work to keep her blood circulating. She dealt with a health scare related to blood clots after the birth of her daughter last year.

Sooners dedicate center named for Griffin family

NORMAN, Okla. — Former Oklahoma star and current Detroit Pistons forward Blake Griffin returned to campus Saturday for the dedication of the Griffin Family Performance Center.

Griffin made the largest donation ever from a Sooner basketball player to help with the \$7 million center.

The school's Board of Regents agreed to name the facility for Griffin, but he wanted his family included. Griffin said his brother, former Sooner Taylor Griffin, helped with the planning.

The facility includes basketball training courts, free weights and areas spaces for stretching, cardiovascular training and strength testing. There are locker rooms, an exam and recovery area and a fueling station. The approximately 16,000 square-foot addition has been in use the past two months.

Giants struggling to run ball in preseason

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — If the first three preseason games are any indication, the New York Giants are going to have to rely on Eli Manning and the passing game to put up points.

The running game just hasn't been there, and it has nothing to do with No. 2 overall draft pick Saquon Barkley missing the last two games with a mild hamstring injury.

While the new revamped offensive line has blocked well for Manning, it is not producing many holes for the running backs.

In the 22-16 win over the Jets on Friday night, the Manning and the No. 1 offense played the first half. The two-time Super Bowl MVP was 17 of 23 for 188 yards. The rushing attack had nine attempts for 1 yard. Veteran Jonathan Stewart had three carries for minus 7 yards and lost a fumble on a first-and-goal at the Jets 6.

The Giants used a lot of two tight end formations in the first half and coach Pat Shurmur said Saturday that the Jets made it tough on the running game putting extra people near the line of scrimmage.

"Nonetheless, we need to do a better job in all areas, whether it's getting on the right people," Shurmur said. "There weren't really missed assignments, so to speak, but we've just got to get off the double teams a little quicker and then just hit it up in there and give the runner a little bit more room to get his feet going."

Left tackle Nate Solder, who has been signed as a free agent, said the Jets have a good run defense.

"That shouldn't stop us from being at least efficient in the run game," the former Patriot said. "You never want to lose yards in the run game. If you are gaining a few here or there, keeping it mixed up, that's fine. When you are losing yards,

no matter what the defense is doing, you are doing something wrong. We have to work at that."

One thing that did work was the play-action pass. Manning found Cody Latimer for 54 yards on a play in which the safety bit on a play action, leaving Latimer one on one with the cornerback. If the 37-year-old Manning had led Latimer a little more it would have been a touchdown.

Instead, he was tackled at the 6-yard line and Stewart, who has nine carries for minus 5 yards in three games, fumbled on the next play.

In the first halves of the past two games, the running attack has gained 16 yards on 20 carries.

It's not the type of production that Shurmur and general manager Dave Gettleman expected after signing Solder and guard Patrick Omameh as free agents and drafting guard Will Hernandez in the second round. They are joined on the line by Jon Halapio at center and former first-round pick Ereck Flowers at right tackle.

"We're accustomed to always putting it on our shoulders," Omameh said of the line's approach to the running game. "We'll take the full brunt whenever. At the end of the day, we are always going to put those rushing stats on ourselves."

There is a chance the line needs more time to work things out. The group also may benefit from the production of the passing, especially when Odell Beckham Jr. finally plays in a game and Barkley returns to action. Both should happen in the season opener at home against Jacksonville on Sept. 9.

The offense also needs to score touchdowns. The first team accounted for three field goals in the half, while special teams scored a touchdown on a punt return and set up a field goal recovering a kickoff at the Jets 16.

Resurgent Astros knock off struggling Angels

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Marwin Gonzalez was at his best again, homering for the eighth time this month. Justin Verlander didn't have his best stuff, but he did just enough.

Gonzalez and Verlander proved to be a winning combination as they led the Houston Astros to an 8-3 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Saturday night.

Gonzalez hit a solo home run to left-center field off reliever Williams Jerez to lead off the four-run eighth inning. Gonzalez has 14 home runs this season, including eight in August. The Astros (79-50) had been clinging to a one-run lead before he opened the eighth with that homer.

"Marwin is a great player," teammate Jose Altuve said. "He did it last year. He's been doing it a long time. Sometimes, people get surprised by what he does. Not me, because I've seen him play this good."

Verlander allowed three runs in six innings, but he was staked to an early 3-0 lead and the offense picked him up.

"Awesome. Those guys backed me up today," Verlander said. "Today was a battle for me physically. Didn't feel great for whatever reason. One of those games you take pride in battling, knowing I didn't have anywhere near my best stuff."

Altuve was hit in the elbow by a fastball from Justin Anderson in the seventh, but remained in the game. Ohtani was then hit in the backside by Roberto Osuna in the eighth and both benches were warned. Deck McGuire hit Yuli Gurriel in the leg in the ninth inning and was ejected. Angels manager Mike Scioscia was also ejected.

"I would like to think the pitch was not on purpose. I'm not sure about that," Ohtani said through an interpreter. "We hit their guy. I'm sure it wasn't on purpose. It's part of baseball. It happens."

McGuire said there was no intent behind his pitch, either.

"I was just trying to go in ... to a guy who likes to dive over the plate and I missed down the middle, and I'm just trying to make sure it didn't happen again," McGuire said. "It's unfortunate in that situa-

tion that (bench) warnings had been issued because there was no intent on my part."

Verlander (13-8) had thrown 26 consecutive scoreless innings against the Angels this season before Shohei Ohtani homered against him in the fourth inning on the first pitch of the at-bat. It was Ohtani's 14th home run of the season, eight shy of his career best in Japan in 2016.

Verlander allowed six hits and struck out six and walked two. He was grooving until the fourth when Ohtani hit a two-run homer to center field. Andrelton Simmons hit a run-scoring triple off Verlander in the sixth.

Ohtani was caught stealing for the first time this season. He was thrown out at third by catcher and friend Martin Maldonado, who was traded by the Angels in July. Maldonado was smiling plenty afterward.

Jaime Barria (8-8) had a rough outing, lasting just three innings after he gave up four runs on five hits. It was his shortest outing since he threw just two innings in a loss against San Francisco on April 22.

Roundup

Yankees sweep split doubleheader with Orioles

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Sonny Gray made the most of a foray into the starting rotation by taking a three-hitter into the seventh inning, and the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-1 Saturday night for a doubleheader sweep.

In the opener, rookie Miguel Andujar homered and had four RBIs as J.A. Happ (15-6) won his fifth straight start in a 10-3 New York victory.

Gray (10-8) gave up three hits, a walk and struck out seven in 6¹/₃ innings. The right-hander had been exiled to the bullpen after yielding seven runs in a loss to Baltimore on since Aug. 1.

Austin Romine homered, had three hits and scored three runs for the Yankees, who led 4-0 after four innings against Andrew Cashner (4-12).

Andujar had two hits in each game to raise his batting average to .300. He leads AL rookies in batting, multihit games (43) and RBIs (70).

Rays 5, Red Sox 1: Kevin Kiermaier tripled to key a two-run sixth inning, Tommy Pham homered and host Tampa Bay won its seventh straight game by beating major league-leading Boston.

The Rays are a season-high eight games over .500 (69-61). They have allowed three or fewer runs in seven consecutive games.

Rockies 9, Cardinals 1: Pinch-hitter Matt Holliday launched his first home run of the season in the seventh inning, Carlos Gonzalez sparked an eight-run eighth with a tiebreaking double and Colorado beat visiting St. Louis in a matchup of NL playoff contenders.

The loss snapped St. Louis' nine-game road winning streak. The surging Cardinals had won four straight and eight of 10 overall.

Dodgers 5, Padres 4 (12): Justin Turner blooped an RBI double to drive in Matt Kemp from second base on the first

pitch after a 20-minute power outage in the 12th inning, lifting host Los Angeles past San Diego.

Manny Machado and Max Muncy each hit their 30th home run of the season for the Dodgers as they overcame another blown save from closer Kenley Jansen.

Athletics 6, Twins 2: Jonathan Lucroy homered and drove in four runs, Mike Fiers pitched effectively into the sixth inning, and visiting Oakland maintained hold on the second wild-card spot.

Royals 7, Indians 1: Rookie Heath Fillmyer pitched six strong innings, Lucas Duda homered and host Kansas City beat Cleveland.

Marlins 3, Braves 1: Brian Anderson hit a pinch-hit, two-run home run to help Miami beat visiting Atlanta.

Giants 5 Rangers 3: Andrew Suarez pitched seven scoreless innings of three-hit ball to lead host San Francisco.

Blue Jays 8, Phillies 6:

Aledmys Diaz hit a go-ahead three-run double in the eighth inning and Toronto handed visiting Philadelphia its sixth loss in seven games.

Mets 3, Nationals 0: Bryce Harper and the Washington Nationals were shut out for the third game in a row Saturday in New York, something that had never happened since the team moved from Montreal.

Cubs 10, Reds 6: Daniel Murphy and Kyle Schwarber each hit a two-run homer and host Chicago won its fourth straight.

Pirates 9, Brewers 1: Adam Frazier hit a three-run homer as visiting Pittsburgh defeated Milwaukee.

White Sox 6, Tigers 1: Lucas Giolito pitched seven sharp innings and Chicago defeated host Detroit.

Mariners 4, Diamondbacks 3 (10): Denard Span hit a solo home run in the 10th inning and visiting Seattle scored two in the ninth to rally for a win over Arizona.